

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 2002-152-C - ORDER NO. 2002-394

MAY 24, 2002

IN RE:	Application of Horry Telephone Long	)	ORDER GRANTING
	Distance, Inc. for Approval of Alternative	)	MODIFIED
	Regulation of certain of its Interexchange	)	ALTERNATIVE
	Services.	)	REGULATION

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the "Commission") on the Application for approval of alternative regulation for the interexchange services of Horry Telephone Long Distance, Inc. ("HTLD" or the "Company"). HTLD provides resold interexchange telecommunications services to subscribers to and from all points in the State of South Carolina and requests that all of its interexchange business service, consumer card service, operator service, and private line service offerings be regulated pursuant to the procedures described and set forth in Commission Orders No. 95-1734 and No. 96-55 in Docket No. 95-661-C. By its Order Nos. 95-1734 and No. 96-55 in Docket No. 95-661-C, the Commission approved a relaxation of regulatory requirements for certain services of AT&T. HTLD's intent is to have its services regulated in the same manner as this Commission has permitted for AT&T Communications of the Southern States, Inc. ("AT&T"). HTLD submits that, as an operator in the very competitive long distance market, HTLD should be subject to no greater regulatory constraints than AT&T.


Pursuant to the instructions of the Commission's Executive Director, a Notice of Filing of HTLD's request was published in the Commission's subscription service. No Protests or Petitions to Intervene were received.

Accordingly, we will proceed to rule on the matter. Alternative regulation as set forth in Order Nos. 95-1734 and 96-55 in Docket No. 95-661-C is hereby approved for use by HTLD, with one modification as described below.

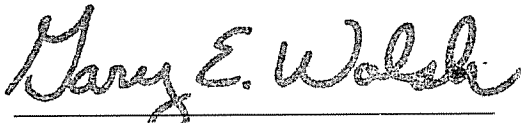
Under the Commission approved alternative regulation, the business service offerings of HTLD including consumer card services, and operator services, are subject to a relaxed regulatory scheme identical to that granted to AT&T Communications in Order Nos. 95-1734 and 96-55 in Docket No. 95-661-C. However, pursuant to Order No. 2001-997 (Docket No. 2000-407-C), this Commission has modified alternative regulation by the re-imposition of rate caps with regard to certain "operator-assisted calls" where a customer uses a local exchange carrier's calling card to complete calls from locations which have not selected that local exchange carrier as the toll provider. Order No. 2001-997, dated November 8, 2001, imposed a maximum cap of \$1.75 for operator surcharges for such calls, and a maximum cap of \$0.35 related to the flat per-minute rate associated with these calls. Under this relaxed regulatory scheme, tariff filings for business services shall be presumed valid upon filing. The Commission will have seven (7) days in which to institute an investigation of any tariff filing. If the Commission institutes an investigation of a particular tariff filing within the seven days, the tariff filing will then be suspended until further Order of the Commission. Any relaxation in the future reporting requirements that may be adopted for AT&T shall apply to HTLD also.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

(SEAL)